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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NEW ENGLAND GUARDS,

REVISED, JANUARY, 1839.

Fifth Edition.

BOSTON:

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1839.**

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(Feb. 6, 1851.)

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND GUARDS.

ARTICLE I.

The name of the Company shall be the "NEW ENGLAND GUARDS."

ARTICLE II.

Any citizen of the age of 18 years and upwards, who may wish to become a member of the Company, shall be admitted if recommended by the Investigating Committee at any meeting of the corps, five sixths of the members present voting in his favor, and no member shall be discharged from the Company by his own request, unless his request be in writing addressed to the Commanding Officer, nor unless five sixths of the members present vote in favor of his discharge.

ARTICLE III.

The Commissioned Officers shall consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant and one Ensign, who shall be elected in such manner as the law directs. The Sergeants and Corporals shall be

elected by a majority of the ballots of the whole Company, or by two thirds of the members present at such election, at any meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be one drummer and one fifer attached to the Company as the law requires, and on parade days such additional music as may be voted for by the Company.

ARTICLE V.

The arms, accoutrements and military equipments, and all other property belonging to the Company, except their uniforms, shall be kept in the Company's Armories, subject to the use and disposal of the Company only; and no article which is or may be hereafter deposited in the Armories, shall be taken therefrom on any pretence whatever, unless by order of the Commanding Officer, and for the sole use of the Company. In times of alarm and danger, the Commanding Officer shall have power to order the members to take their arms home, but they shall be returned to the Armory whenever the Commanding Officer shall so order.

ARTICLE VI.

There shall be chosen annually in the month of March, or oftener if necessary, an Infantry Armorer and an Artillery Armorer, and it shall be the duty of each of them to keep an exact account of the arms

and accoutrements, military stores and all other articles belonging to the Company, committed to them; which account they shall annually, in the month of March, exhibit to the Commanding Officer, to be laid before the Company; they shall also see that all articles after being used are duly returned, and shall always keep them in good order. It shall further be the duty of the Armorer to provide such ammunition as may be ordered suitable to the respective arms committed to their charges.

ARTICLE VII.

The accoutrements and military equipments of the Company, together with the side arms and sashes of the non-commissioned officers, shall form a common stock, and no member shall wear the uniform of the Corps except upon the Public Parades and Celebrations of the Company, unless by permission of the Commanding Officer, or by a special vote of the Company.

ARTICLE VIII.

At all meetings of the Company the senior officer present shall preside, and strict obedience shall be paid to his commands in debate as well as in military manœuvres, and we pledge ourselves to each other that we will discountenance any improper conduct in any member.

ARTICLE IX.

It shall be the duty of the Orderly Sergeant to keep a correct size and muster roll of the Company.

and to form the Company at parades and drills, unless otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE X.

There shall be chosen annually in the month of March, or oftener if necessary, a Clerk by ballot, who shall perform all the duties required by law, and shall notify all members of every meeting of the Company by causing a notification to be delivered to each member previous to such meeting, for which purpose he shall be authorized to employ some person at the expense of the Company, and he shall provide a room for such meeting. He shall call a roll at every meeting of the Company previous to entering upon business, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, noting all members who are absent at the whole meeting or tardy; and he shall make a return of fines due from the absent or tardy members to the Treasurer, within 48 hours after every meeting; he shall furnish such returns and rolls as are, or may be required by law; and where any member shall obtain a regular discharge from the Company, he shall report his name to the Commanding Officer of the ward in which such member resides. He shall keep a fair record of all votes and doings of the Company in an orderly book which shall never be alienated from the Company, and which shall be open to the inspection of any member, and in which he shall insert all details of detachments and all orders received from the Com-

manding Officer ; he shall notify all new members of their admission, and shall within 48 hours after every meeting, report to the Treasurer the names of such members as are admitted and discharged. In case of the absence of the Clerk at any meeting, the presiding officer shall appoint some member to act in his stead, and it shall be the duty of the Clerk pro tem. to make to the Clerk of the Company a return of the proceedings of such meeting in 24 hours after its adjournment or dissolution.

ARTICLE XI.

There shall be chosen annually in the month of March, or oftener if necessary, a Treasurer by ballot, whose duty it shall be to collect all fines and assessments, to pay all bills after being approved by the Commanding Officer, (or in case of extraordinary assessments for parades, &c. by the committee under whose authority the debts may be incurred,) to receive all monies due or property accruing to the Company from any source—to keep correct accounts of all receipts and expenditures—to keep an account with every member ; his books are to be open to the inspection of any member—to report in writing to the Commanding Officer the name of any delinquent, to make and exhibit annually in the month of March a correct account of receipts and expenditures, and of all monies in his hands, and to pay over the same in such manner as the company may order.

ARTICLE XII.

Any active member who shall neglect to attend a meeting of the Company on public parade days, until after roll call, shall pay a fine of fifty cents—and if on such days he totally absents himself, he shall pay such fine as is established by the laws of the Commonwealth, and if he absent himself from any private meeting, he shall pay twenty-five cents and if tardy at such meeting he shall pay twelve and a half cents. Any member who shall retire from the Company on public parade days without leave from the Commanding Officer, shall pay a fine of not less than five, nor more than ten dollars, and if he retire from a private meeting without leave as aforesaid, he shall pay fifty cents. Any active member who is about leaving the city of Boston for a term exceeding three months, shall obtain a furlough from the Commanding Officer, of which he shall notify the Clerk, and for neglecting to obtain a furlough or to notify the Clerk, he shall be liable to pay all assessments which may be laid and all fines which may accrue during his absence. Members shall also be subject to such other fines as are established by the Laws of the Commonwealth for the regulation of the Militia.

ARTICLE XIII.

Every active member shall be assessed and shall pay to the Treasurer for the time being, yearly on the first Monday in May, the sum of four dollars for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the

Company. And all persons admitted between the first Monday of May and the annual fall training shall pay the assessment of the current year.

ARTICLE XIV.

The Company shall have power to levy an assessment for any purpose, provided, that at a meeting of the Company notified for that purpose—two thirds of the members present vote for the same; and all assessments so laid, and all fines shall be paid to the Treasurer, or in case of extraordinary assessments for parades, &c., to a committee appointed for the purpose, within eight days after they are demanded, except such fines as may be remitted by the Commanding Officer; and any member who shall neglect or refuse to pay the same within that time shall be reported to the Company.

ARTICLE XV.

SEC. 1. The Company, in April of each year, and every new member at the time of his admission, shall be sized by the orderly sergeant, who shall keep a record thereof: the Company shall then be divided into two permanent platoons; the right platoon to be under the command of the Lieutenant, and the left under the command of the Ensign; (unless the commanding officer shall otherwise order;) and the platoon officers shall severally be answerable to the Commanding Officer, for the conduct and appearance of their respective platoons.

Each platoon shall be divided into two permanent sections; each section to be under the command of the sergeant of that section, (unless the Commanding Officer shall otherwise direct.) Each sergeant shall be answerable to the Commanding Officer of the platoon to which he is permanently attached, for the conduct and appearance of his particular section. Each section shall be divided into two permanent subdivisions, under the command of corporals. It shall be the duty of the corporals to instruct the men in their respective subdivisions, thoroughly in the Infantry and Light Infantry manuals; the positions and movement of the soldier; marching in cadenced time, by the direct, oblique and back steps; the facings, wheelings and turnings, and all other points of elementary discipline; and each of them shall be answerable to the sergeant or acting sergeant of the section, to which his subdivision is attached, for the conduct, appearance and discipline of the men under his command. The Commanding Officer will fill temporary vacancies, by the appointment of lance corporals; selecting such men as are distinguished for their soldierlike conduct and skill; and they shall be answerable in like manner as above ordered, during the continuance of their respective commands.

SEC. 2. Every member of the Company is expected to be competent to serve as an Artillerist, when designated to that duty by the Commanding Officer, and every non-commissioned officer must be competent to instruct the men under his command,

in all the duties appertaining to the Artillery. Each platoon officer shall detail from his platoon, such sergeant or sergeants, and so many corporals and men to do Artillery duty, as the Commanding Officer shall order. The commander of the Artillery shall appoint the captains of the guns and attach the men designated for Artillery service, to a particular gun. The men so attached shall be under the command of the captain of the gun; who shall assign to them their respective duties, and shall be responsible to the commander of Artillery for the service of his piece, and for the conduct of the men under his command; and the commander of Artillery shall be responsible for the service of the Artillery, in all points, to the Commanding Officer of the company.

ARTICLE XVI.

Any active member absenting himself from eight successive meetings of the Company, public or private, without furnishing an excuse satisfactory to the Commanding Officer, shall be reported to the Company by the Clerk at their next meeting; and if they shall determine that such delinquent is no longer worthy to be a member, his name shall be stricken from the roll of the Company, and the Clerk shall report the same to the Captain of the Ward in which he resides.

ARTICLE XVII.

Any active member who removes from the usual place where his notifications are left, shall give notice thereof to the Clerk of the Company, within seven days after his removal, and if he neglect to give such notice he shall pay a fine of fifty cents.

ARTICLE XVIII.

At every meeting of the Company for business, the proceedings of the previous meeting shall be read, and no vote passed by the Company shall be repealed or re-considered at any subsequent meeting, unless there be a greater number present than when the same was enacted, or unless by a vote of all the active members of the Company.

ARTICLE XIX.

Any amendments or alterations of the Constitution proposed at a regular meeting and which shall be voted for at a subsequent meeting by two thirds of the whole number of members, or by three quarters of the members present, shall become a part of the same and be in force accordingly.

ARTICLE XX.

The Commanding Officer shall appoint annually or whenever he shall deem it necessary a Commissary and Quarter Master, with such assistants as

may be necessary. It shall be the duty of the Commissary to make all contracts necessary for the subsistence of the Company in quarters, and furnish suitable rations to the men at such times and in such manner as the system of Camp police may require, and to furnish such refreshments as may be ordered when on service. It shall be the duty of the Quarter Master to make all contracts relative to the quarters of the Company, and for the necessary means of transportation of Artillery and military stores; to keep the tents and their appurtenances in good order; to mark out the ground for encampment, and to exercise a general superintendence of all matters pertaining to these subjects.

ARTICLE XXI.

The Commissary and Quarter Master shall each be entitled to a rank next below that of the junior commissioned officer, and above that of orderly sergeant. The Armourers, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Company, shall be exempted from all assessments, during the time of their continuance in office.

ARTICLE XXII.

There shall be four Standing Committees. 1st. A Committee on accounts, to consist of the Commanding Officer, the two Armourers, the Clerk, and the Chairman of the Music Committee. 2d. A

Insurance Committee, to consist of the Treasurer and Armors. 3d. A Music Committee, to consist of the Sergeants of the Company. 4th. An Investigating Committee, consisting of five, with power to fill their own vacancies.

ARTICLE XXIII.

This Constitution shall be recorded in a book provided for the purpose, and subscribed by every member of the Company, and the date of his admission shall be affixed to his name.

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